



Annual Report

2016

Photography

Erica Penner

Text

Denver Penner

Yolanda Banman

© 2017 Vida 180 A.C.

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Table of contents

LETTER BY THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT: DENVER PENNER KORNELSEN	5
ABOUT US	7
OUR MISSION	7
OUR VISION	7
OUR PARTNERS	7
OUR STORY	8
2017 GOALS	11
2016 RESULTS	12
FINANCIAL SUMMARY	14
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	16
TESTIMONIES	17
ORPHANAGE DIRECTOR: RAUL ESPINO HERNÁNDEZ	17
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR: JANETH RAMOS VELETA	17
DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: BENJAMIN DUECK BERGEN	17
VIDA180 CHILD: VANESSA	18
VIDA180 CHILD: ALONDRA	21
VIDA180 CHILD: JUAN CARLOS	22
VIDA180 CHILD: CINTHYA	25
VIDA180 CHILD: GAEL	26
VIDA180 CHILD: MARIANA	29
VOLUNTEERS	30
CONTACT INFORMATION	32







Dear friend,

As I look back to June of 2014 when we opened our doors and started receiving abandoned and vulnerable children, I am simply blown away by what all has been achieved in the last 30 plus months. Tina and I were nervous about starting Vida 180. The legal requirements, the staff needed, the volunteers that would be required, where would the funds come from, and how would we actually find the children, were all questions that were way over our heads when we started. However, with a simple promise from God that he would supply all our needs we waded into this great adventure.

It is now 2 and a half years since we opened our doors. We have completed the construction of a 5,000 square ft home, we have filled it with 55 needy children. We have dedicated staff for the home. We have completed the construction on a 2,500 sq ft school. We are not that far away from finishing our first school year operating the school. We have the school fully staffed. We have many volunteers helping out in our volunteer program. We have started the construction of a barn and barnyard. And this year we started a church service for the children, staff, friends and relatives of the children. Many people have come alongside of us to help finance this project. This is truly amazing! God had all the pieces of the puzzle ready and over the last couple of years he has assembled it.

I believe God's heart was ripped apart when he saw the devastation caused by the drug war here in the State of Chihuahua over the past decade. So many homeless children. He loves each one of them as he loves my own children. God has heard the cry of the children and he has passionately gone out to save them. He has brought together people from all walks of life with different talents and abilities. He gave them a burning desire to rescue, restore and equip children. Where there was nothing but ashes beauty is starting to blossom, He has replaced the spirit of heaviness with a garment of praise. Being part of this adventure fills me with adrenaline each day. I feel so privileged to be a part of this group of people that God has put together for this specific reason!

It is wonderful to start seeing the initial positive results of investing our lives in these children. However I realize that it can take more than a decade till we will actually see the real impact of what we are doing today.

As we are coming to the limit of the amount of children we can accept in this home because of space I am becoming anxious since I would find it extremely difficult to say no to a needy child. However, I believe we will not need to turn away a needy child. God has more than provided for all our needs up till now and I am confident that his provision will be there for us as more children are brought to us. God has a lot more people who are ready to invest their lives, talents and finances to bring more of God's abandoned children home. Maybe you're the one...

May God bless you!

Denver Penner Kornelsen

Founder and President of the Board



About us

Vida180 is an organization in which businessmen, farmers, teachers, and other people from different backgrounds work to bring positive change to the lives of vulnerable children in the state of Chihuahua. We are committed to form leaders with a methodology of vision, with investment, leadership, and love.

It is our goal to provide a space where our children can grow and develop their social, academic, and practical skills to their full potential. We seek to create a healthy environment in which integrity and moral values are fostered for each child, so that they can grow to be responsible, godly, and productive citizen.

Our mission

To positively impact the future of Chihuahua by forming a generation of leaders.

Our vision

To rescue, restore, and equip the most vulnerable of our State.

Our partners

MANAGEMENT BOARD	DENVER PENNER KORNELSEN	FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT
	RENE FRIESEN FROESE	SECRETARY
	BENJAMIN DUECK BERGEN	DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
	JACOB KORNELSEN NEUFELD	CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD
	WALTER DUECK PLETT	SPOKESPERSON
ORPHANAGE STAFF	RAUL ALFONSO ESPINO HERNÁNDEZ	DIRECTOR
	LORENA LOPEZ	ADMINISTRATOR
	ANA ARACELY MIRAMONTES	CHILD CAREGIVER
	MARGARITA ARMENTA HERMOSILLO	CHILD CAREGIVER
	CLAUDIA ARACELY DOMINGUEZ MACIAS	CHILD CAREGIVER
	PERLA ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ RODRIGUEZ	CHILD CAREGIVER
SCHOOL STAFF	JANETH FABIOLA RAMOS VELETA	ADMINISTRATOR
	NORMA FRIESSEN	ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR
	ESTEPHANY JOANNA LOEWEN BANMAN	TEACHER
	MARIA DE LOS ANGELES RODRIGUEZ	TEACHER
	ARIADNA SOCORRO REYES GUTIERREZ	TEACHER
	RAUL EDUARDO ESPINO LOPEZ	TEACHER

Our story



2012: start of adventure



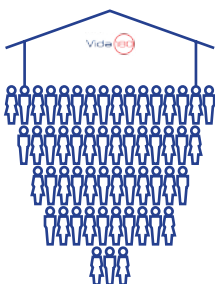
2013: completion of legal work



2014: opening of orphanage
with 13 children



2015: inauguration of the new home
with 16 children



2016: inauguration of the school
with 55 children

Tina and I have long had a passion to grow leaders. Since moving to Mexico nearly a decade ago we have seen how poverty and corruption have ravaged a country that is very wealthy in natural resources and opportunity. With nothing but a fence separating it from the wealthiest country in the world. Having traveled extensively all over the country of Mexico for business purposes has opened my eyes to the desperate need to develop leaders who will contribute to our country in a positive way rather than partner with those would suck the life out of our country. This passion coupled with the need to take care of abandoned children has led to the birth of Vida 180

The meaning for Vida 180 is hidden in the letters of our name. **V** = Vision, **I** = investment, **D** = direction, **A** = Amor (Love) and **180** = 180°. As business people we understand how important Vision, Investment, and Direction are to the success of any company and to what level of impact it can actually have and in what amount of time. We have seen how many people with wonderful intentions have tried to make a difference in our state by helping a few kids here or there applying a very important ingredient which is Amor (Love). But mostly have been unsuccessful in really impacting our state. We believe that if we professionally apply Vision, Investment, and Direction mixed with a passionate Godly love for our children in our state we will be able to change the direction of these children's lives and the direction of our state 180 degrees.

In 2014 we became investors in this awesome adventure. We invested time, heart and resources. Rather than looking for donors we went out looking for investors knowing that this investment is one of the best investments investors could ever make. This investment will outlive the investors. It is an investment that will pay dividends for all eternity. And so with the mindset of investors we plunged in. Carefully investing with wisdom, remaining transparent, expecting results, and not being satisfied till all our lost children are rescued, restored, and equipped.

Aug 9, 2012 we made the decision to plunge in. In 2013 all the legal work was completed. In June of 2014 we started operating in an old building with 13 children. June 1 of 2015 we moved into our newly constructed 5,000 square ft home with 16 children. In January of 2016 we started the construction of our school facilities. July 2016 we opened our school fully staffed with registered teachers. In Sept 2016 we started an English program for all the children. December of 2016 we came to full capacity with 55 children. Also in December of 2016 we started the construction of the barn and barn yard.

A lot has been completed but the work has just begun. Over the next three years we are planning to grow both our home and our school to a capacity for 150 children. We also plan to become financially self-sustainable as far as the operating is concerned. We believe God is passionate about this work and just as he has brought investors together, investors who invest energy, heart, finances, and time with all their heart soul and mind... so he will keep bringing more together to supply what we need for the next 3 years.

We want to see our state positively impacted with the love and wisdom of God. God has started an awesome work here and we are proud to be part of it.

Our desire is that where ever God has planted you that you will invest your life with all your heart, soul, and mind in things that will outlast you. In things that will repay dividends for all eternity!

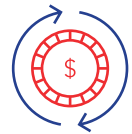
May God Bless you!





2017 goals

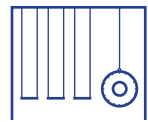
1. To achieve financial self-sustainability



2. To complete building a house for the staff



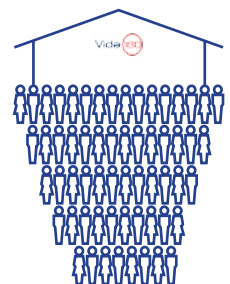
3. To finish the remodeling of the yard to create space to foster recreational activities



4. To complete the construction of the barn and yard for practical education

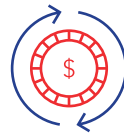


5. To grow to our capacity of 60 children.



2016 results

1. Achieved financial self-sustainability by 40%



2. Recruited teaching staff, including English, Computer Science, and Preschool teachers, and started classes



3. Recruited and trained orphanage staff



4. Increased literacy from 40% to 80%



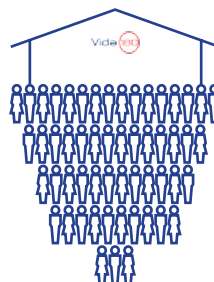
5. Performed musical presentations in the state of Chihuahua



6. Constructed and inaugurated the school facilities on the second floor of the orphanage



7. Grew from 33 to 55 beneficiaries



1000 mililitros
500 mililitros
250 mililitros
da de Peso
1000 gramos
500 gramos
250 gramos

Diálogo es
la conversación
entre dos o más
personas.

Acrostico,
Composición
poética formada
por las iniciales.

Aa Bb Cc Ch ch Dd

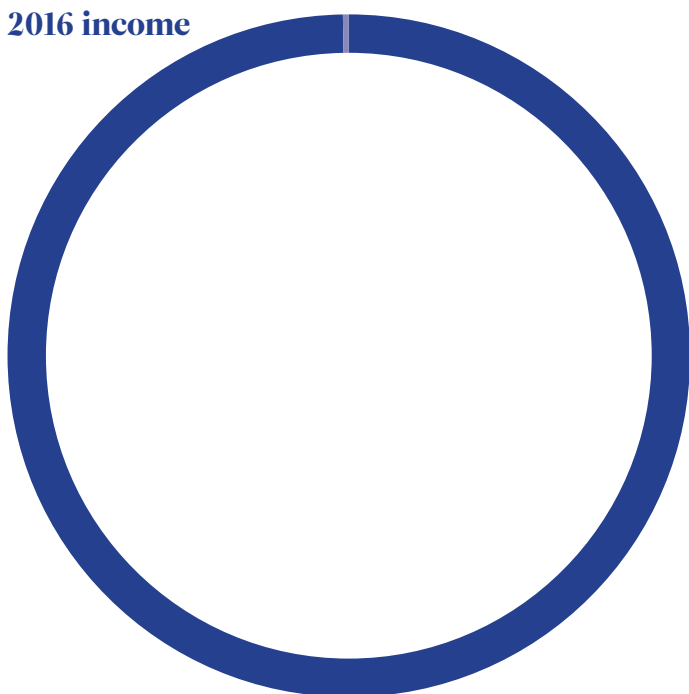
El Sustantivo
Nos sirve para nombrar
personas, animales o cosas.



January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

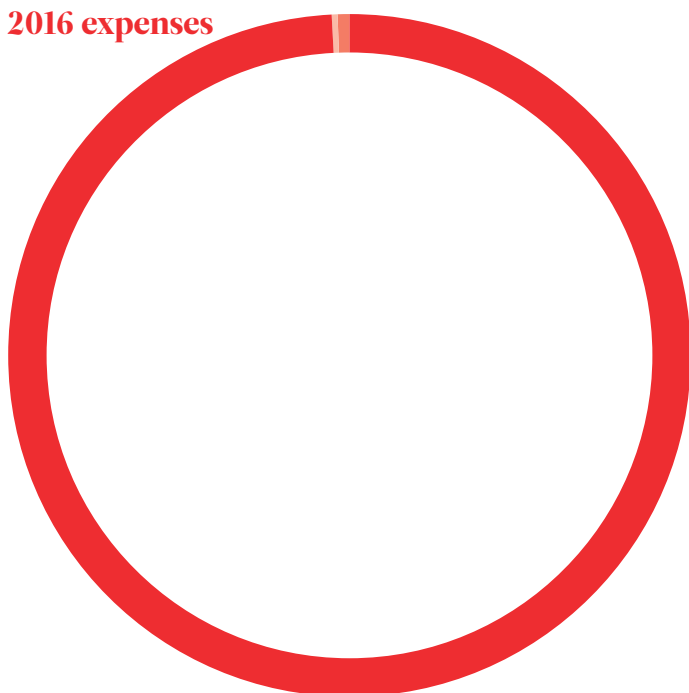
Financial summary

2016 income



■	Donations
	\$162,285.92
■	Other income
	\$360.93

2016 expenses



■	Orphanage and classroom expenses
	\$113,513.81
■	Other project expenses
	\$272.45
■	Financial expenses
	\$626.18
■	Fixed assets
	\$228,275.29
■	Other assets
	\$2,273.46
■	Liabilities
	\$2,651.08

*Note: All values are in USD.
1 USD = 18.7911 MXN*





**Many thanks to every
businessman, farmer, teacher,
volunteer, and donor who is part
of this mission to rescue children;
we ask God to bless you!**



Testimonies

In October 2014, Denver Penner invited my wife and I to join their workforce at the orphanage in Santa Lucía. At this point, we had helped children in other orphanages for 13 years and were happy to use this experience to help the children at Vida180.

This is far more than a job; we get to help these children grow into upright citizens with meaningful lives. And we note with great satisfaction the positive changes in their lives.

Raúl Alfonso Espino Hernández
Director of the orphanage

When I first accepted the job at Vida180, it seemed to be a position like any other, but working with the children is changing my life, both professionally and spiritually. Working here, makes me learn in many ways, like loving and respecting others, and putting others first.

The children here are sweet and loving, and that makes me realize that, despite any obstacle in life, you can always move forward.

Throughout these seven months, I have learned that being a teacher is not only about transmitting dry knowledge, but sharing the desire to achieve goals on our own; it's transmitting hope, and putting effort into dreams and purposes.

Janeth Fabiola Ramos Veleta
Director of the school

Fundraising for Vida180 has been a very interesting and satisfying experience for me. Over the years, I got to know the Mennonite communities very well. I have observed some values that each generation of Mennonites passes on to the next: hard work, honesty, loyalty, generosity, and tenacity. As a result, most have a prosperous and productive life, something that I am very proud of.

It has been a pleasure to get to know so many farmers and their families, and to see their interest in contributing to a positive change in our State. Thanks to farmers and other donors, Vida180 is able to rescue many children from the streets. The results are visible immediately and will last for eternity.

I want to thank every farmer who has participated in this mission to rescue children; I ask God to bless you!

Benjamin Dueck Bergen
Representative of the Development and Sustainability Committee

My name is Vanessa, I am 14 years old. I want to share part of my story.

I used to live with my parents, but when they separated, I alternated living with my mother and my stepfather, my father, and my siblings. After a while, I did not like that anymore and I started to go out, to drink alcohol, to smoke marijuana, and to cut myself. There were times that I didn't come home for a week or longer. If my mother was at home, she would send the police to find me or she would look for me herself. If she found me, she would hit me with a belt or a hose.

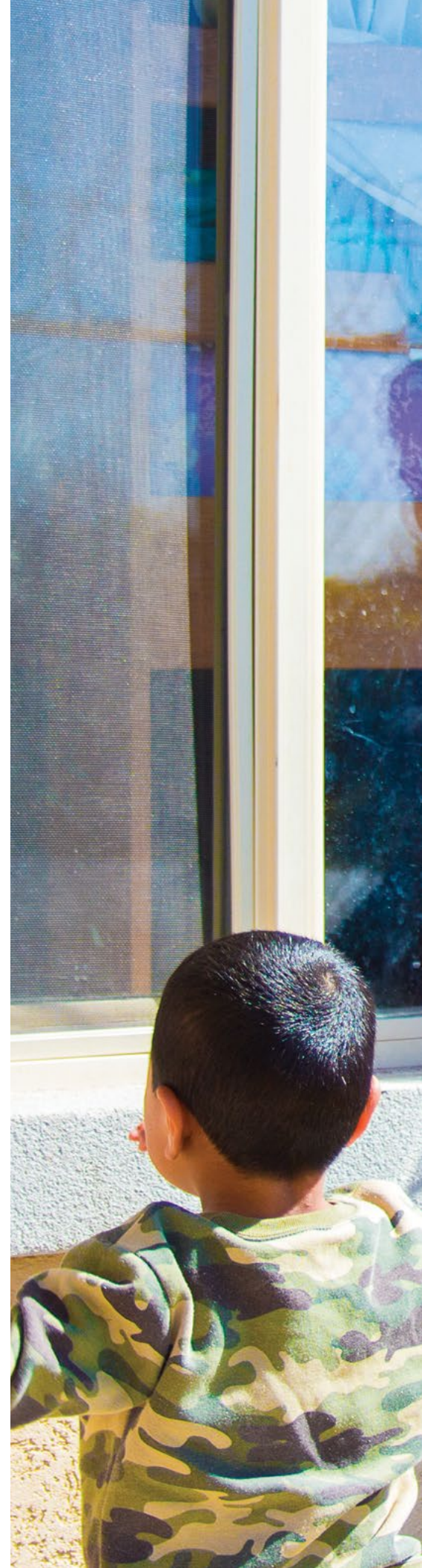
One day, my sister searched for me and told me that my stepfather had left my mom and that she started to drink alcohol. After that, my mom went to work in another state, but I kept going out. She called every day to find out how my brother and I were, but we hardly ever paid any attention to her. One day, my sister told me, that if I didn't stop going out, I would be sent to a boarding school. I didn't take her seriously though. But one Sunday, my sister brought me to a boarding school and I stopped going out for a month.

One Friday I got home and my brother was gone. My sister told me that he was at Vida180. I started going out again because I felt as if every Friday when I came home they were just fighting. One day, when I went out to visit my sister with my dad, a fight erupted and it turned out that I could not stay with my mom or my dad anymore. The DIF (short for Integral Development of Families in Spanish) was contacted and after a week I came to Vida180.

Now that I am here, I am very happy. I have friends, moms, my dad Raúl, Eduardo, and the other caregivers. Everyone here helps so I can be strong and get ahead. I like the rooms, the food they give us, how they treat us, and everything they do so we are taken care of.

When I leave, I want to become a veterinarian; I want to have a stable family. More than anything, I want to help children and people in need.

Vanessa
Vida180 child





Here I am very happy!

Now I know what I want in
life; and with God's help I am
working towards my goals.



My name is Alondra, I am 14 years old and I want to tell you my story:

Before I came here, I lived with my parents for a while and then went to live at my grandmother's house because I got tired of taking care of my siblings. My parents were alcoholics, so I didn't want to live with them anymore.

Time passed and they decided to stop drinking because of their children. Since I had not seen them for a long time, I decided to live with them again. Over there, I did not know how to protect my siblings from my uncle who treated us badly. And then one day, the terrible news came that my father had died. I was devastated!

After a while, I moved back in with my grandmother. I was disobedient and griping, which my grandmother did not deserve. I had bad friends: they invited me to do drugs, to drink, and other awful things. I would leave the house and return very late, even though I knew my grandma was worried. My grandmother would sometimes hit us with branches

and to stop being beat, I left the house. I tried to commit suicide several times. I couldn't take it anymore! At that moment, I realized that I was only hurting myself.

One of my brothers, knew how to hide the drugs from my grandmother. One day, my friends, my brother, and I lied to my grandmother so that we could leave the house for a while. We told her that we were going to the park, but instead we played bad games. That's when they brought my brother to Vida180, which I really wanted to see. I liked the building. They asked me if I wanted to stay there. I thought a lot about that invitation and finally accepted it. My sister and I then stayed at Vida180.

I am very happy at Vida180 because I can learn so much. I am very grateful, because Raúl, Lorena, and their son helped me get out of depression. I thank God for putting them in my life! I like their lessons, how they treat us, and how they organize things; I also like the advice they give us. Well, I actually like everything. I'm not saying that there are no problems at Vida180 because wherever you go,

there will be problems, but I choose to move forward. I am happy with my siblings; now I can know if they are doing well or not. As far as I know, we are doing very well. I really enjoy dancing and hanging out with the other children.

When I grow up, I would like to own a restaurant or become a lawyer and get to know many places around the world. I would also like to be a singer; I love singing and playing drums, but I prefer singing. God willing, I want to finish a degree and support my siblings.

I would also like my mom to be proud of me for everything I've achieved. I thank her for having supported me all this time, but with or without her help I will succeed. I'm going to put in a lot of effort because I am me and I have to try.

Now I know what I want in life; and whatever goal I set for myself, I work towards it with God's help.

Alondra
Vida180 child

My name is Juan Carlos, I am 15 years old, I'm going to tell you part of my story, how I got here, and how my life has changed.

Before I came here, I lived in the mountains and a friend invited me to work taking care of marijuana and poppy in a ravine. After being there for a few weeks they brought me to my mother's house, but nobody was at home so I left. The next day I went back to greet her. The man who lived with my mother told me that if he ever saw me high, it would be better if I didn't even come home and so I didn't go back. I was usually high on marijuana, glue, cocaine, crack, or paint. I lived in whatever places I found and got my money for drugs by cleaning windshields; sometimes I stole iron and sold it. I kept to myself and drank very little alcohol, but I drugged myself every day.

Once, I was drugged under a bridge and a street bum wanted to steal my marijuana, but I didn't have any. Later he and a friend of his grabbed me and they beat me up. One of them was carrying a

chain; they left me all beaten. Next day, I couldn't remember what happened, but I had bruises all over my body.

One day, a street bum invited me to a soup kitchen where a volunteer asked me if I wanted help. I answered that I needed help because I wanted to become free of my drug addiction. The volunteer told me to get ready, he could take me to a place. But I was scared and I did not come back. The next day I returned to the soup kitchen and he called Raul, who came by and brought me to Vida180.

When I first arrived, I thought it was a nursery because there were only small children, but they told me to take a bath. After I bathed, I went out and remembered that I was still carrying marijuana in my sweatshirt and I went out and got high. Raul found me in the play house, took the marijuana, and we went to get a haircut. That's how I came to Vida180.

At Vida180, I live very well and I have changed a lot since I came here. I really

like to live here because I have a home, I have hot water to bathe and I have friends. Before I didn't have any friends, I was always alone and I didn't like to be with someone else. At Vida180, I enjoy learning, working with Raul, and watching how the workers are building the new facilities. I also really like the playground.

I would like to learn how to build houses, so I can do that when I get out of here. Or I'd like to know more about mechanics and how to fix cars. My life has changed a lot since I came to Vida180; I learned how to read, how to work, and how to control my anger. I am not sad anymore; before I was always sad and I wanted to kill myself. I am very happy here and I want to thank all the employees who work at Vida180 because they have made it possible for me to stay here and for me to change. I would also like to thank everyone who has supported me so far and keeps on believing in me.

Juan Carlos
Vida180 child

Here I learned how to read,
how to work, and how to
control my anger.



God has a purpose for
my life and He loves me
unconditionally. Now I feel
sure of myself and happy
with who I am.





My name is Cinthya and I want to tell you part of the story of my life.

When my mother died three years ago, I went to live in a slum with the family of my uncle and my brothers. This place was not a healthy environment because they mistreated, beat, and humiliated me on a regular basis. I felt awful and it hurt a lot how they hit me and demeaned me. My aunt and my cousins reproached and guilt-tripped me every day. My brother and my cousins treated me even worse and that created a lot of sadness and anger in me; I didn't like them anymore. But when I told my aunt what was happening, she just ignored me and didn't do anything. This made me feel lonely and ugly.

One day, Raul and Lorena came to my aunt's house to pick me up. That made me happy because I couldn't stay at that place any longer. At Vida180 I feel good because they treat me very well. I eat when it's time to eat, I go to school, and I learn new things every day. I have also learned that God has a purpose for my life and that He loves me unconditionally.

I feel happy because I can hang out with the other children, with the adults who work here, and with the people who visit. Now I am sure of myself and happy with who I am.

Cinthya
Vida180 child

I am Gael, I am 10 years old. I want to tell you a little about my life.

When I lived with my mom and my two siblings I didn't go to school. My mom worked at a bar and she drank a lot. She would go to work in the morning and not come back until 5 pm. Meanwhile, my brothers and I would play on a hill and kill animals until she returned.

One day when my mom was at work, some men came with a pick-up truck and forcibly took her and her partner. Her friend reappeared, but my mother was never found.

After this, my grandparents picked us up and we went to live with them; we lived very poorly. My grandmother beat me a lot because I disobeyed her. One day, she told me that we were going to visit an orphanage and we went to Vida180; I liked it. They asked me if I wanted to stay and I did.

At Vida180 I am very well, I feel happy. I like to have my bed, the school, a bath, the games, and the playtime. I enjoy learning new stuff and hanging out with the friends I have here.

When I grow up, I would like to go back to my grandparents and help them however I can.

Gael
Vida180 child





When I grow up, I would like to go back to my grandparents and help them however I can.

**I've been taught that God
loves me, forgives me, and
gives me a new beginning.**





My name is Mariana, I want to tell you a part of my life.

I lived in a village in the south of this country, with my uncles, granny, and cousins. Everything was lovely, although I did not know about my dad until I finished preschool.

When I entered primary school, the teacher expelled me for not doing my homework, for insulting teachers, and for having problems with my classmates. Then my mother made me do all the household chores, and if I didn't do them, she would hit me. Because of this, I left the house and went to live with my aunt. When my mom noticed, she slapped my aunt, so I had to return to my house, although not for a long time. My dad took me out of that place and brought me to live with another aunt.

Sometime later, I went to school again, but like before I caused problems at school so that they expelled me. As a consequence of my behavior, I had to help in the household and do everything my aunt told me to do from Monday to Friday; the weekends I spent with my father. This was very hard because he drank a lot and got into serious problems. That is when I also started to cause problems at the house. I liked to go out to drink alcohol and go to motorcycle races with my friends. One day when I went out with my friends, the police stopped us for illegal street racing, so they sent me to live with my sister in another city. This was not the most prudent move because my sister was not

responsibly caring for me and left me alone all day. So I went back to live with my dad for three months. The situation did not improve though, which is why they brought me to my mom so I could live with her. They no longer knew what to do with me.

I started working at the traffic lights selling candy from Monday to Friday, where I had to meet a quota of \$200.00 pesos per day. If I couldn't accomplish this, I didn't get any food. On weekends, I cleaned a house, begged for money, and picked up cans in the mornings with my grandfather. Obviously, I was not left with any profit, since everything went to my mother and her husband.

One day, my mother hit me very hard, so my grandfather took me to the DIF (an acronym for Integral Development for the Family in Spanish) and they brought me to Vida180 in a police car.

In my new life, I am happy because there are people who help me become a better person. I am learning how to dance, and I have a school where I really take advantage of the classes. I have already advanced in basic knowledge. I also like that there are more children because they support me and we work together to improve our lives. I have learned to go forward no matter what obstacles life gives me because they have taught me that God loves me, forgives me, and gives me a new beginning. And most importantly, He never leaves me.

Mariana
Vida180 child

Helping the children makes us happy; it is a good opportunity to sow good seed. We are grateful to God and Denver and Tina that we get to be part of the Vida180 family.

Francisco and Zila Thiessen
Volunteers at Vida180

We are grateful to have the opportunity to be part of this project. The time with the children has been a great blessing in our lives; to see those smiling faces makes us realize that we are sowing on good soil.

Javier and Lorena Ledezma
Volunteers at Vida180

I really enjoy playing baseball with the kids and their way of playing impresses me. They do not care who wins, as long as they can play. They see me as their friend.

Willy
Volunteer at Vida180

We thank God for allowing us to volunteer at Vida180, for the children who welcome us with such joy, and because we are blessed with all the hugs we receive every Sunday. We know that, like in every family, the children fight and sometimes it's difficult to control them, but even with fights, shouting, games, scolding, and punishments we are a great family. As we give, we also receive a lot of love. Thanks Vida180 for allowing us to be a part of you, God bless you abundantly.

We love you!

Ubaldo, Doris, Daniel and Abril Rojas
Volunteers at Vida180

As a group, we have had a lot of fun with the kids. One Sunday, when I was playing with some of the girls, they couldn't stop laughing because they were having so much fun. That's when I realized that I can really make a difference in their lives.

Lucy
Volunteer at Vida180

I enjoy planning the games for the kids and then seeing how much fun they are having. It makes me feel good to do something other than my routine.

César
Volunteer at Vida180





Vida 180 A.C.

Carretera Estatal Cuauhtémoc – Álvaro
Obregón Km 9, Campo No. 2-B
Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua 31604

administracion@vida180.com.mx

☎ (625) 586 5237

📞 (625) 119 4083

📱 /vida180

www.vida180.com

